

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed July 14, 2006, the period of response having been extended until January 14, 2007. Claims 1-3, 6 and 16-24 remain in this application; new claims 25-37 have been added.

Support for new claims 25-27 may be found in previous claims 1-3, 6 and 16-24 as well as in Fig.2 with its accompanying description and in paragraphs [0039] to [0048]. No new matter has been added in any way.

Applicant submits that previously submitted claim 20 and new claim 33 are supported by paragraph [0027].

Applicant has amended claim 1 in order to more clearly point out that the instrumented prosthetic foot of the invention includes a pair of sensors that are interposed between the socket connector and the elongated body and positioned side by side. Furthermore the connector is mounted to the elongated body via the pair of sensors. The foregoing amendment is fully supported by the application as filed, as can be clearly seen by the Figures 10 and 11 which show the pair of sensors 22A and 22B positioned side by side between the connector 81 and the elongated body 83. Also shown in Figure 10 is that the connector 81 is mounted to the elongated body 83 via the sensors 22A and 22B. Therefore, there is no direct or auxiliary connection between connector 81 and elongated body 83.

The Christensen reference, on the other hand, teaches a connector that is pivotally mounted to an elongated body with sensors interposed therebetween. With respect to the statement in the Action that the foregoing pivotal connection is optional, Applicant contends that neither the written description nor the Figures teach any type of non-pivotable connection between the socket connector and the elongated body. In fact, a pivotable connection or pivot between the socket connector and the elongated body is needed in the Christensen application in order to allow the connector to pivot forwards or backwards thereby applying a load force on the front sensor or the back sensor.

This construction and the operation of the present invention as now claimed in claim 1 is completely different than the device taught in Christensen. In the present application, there is no possibility of a pivot between the socket connector and the elongated body since the connector is mounted to the elongated body via the side by side pair of sensors.

New claim 25 is drawn to an instrumented prosthetic foot system which comprises an instrumented foot and a controller. The instrumented foot includes a socket connector and an elongated body with a pair of sensors interposed between the connector and the elongated body. The controller receives data from the sensors so as to determined the torque between the elongated body top part and the connector. New claim 26 adds that the controller can also determine the pressure force on the toe of and the heel regions of the elongated body. The art cited by the Examiner does not teach nor anticipate the foregoing.

Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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1/16/07

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, Mail Stop: RCE.

Date:

January 16, 2007

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